

Ash Creek & Richland Center
United Methodist Churches
A Community of Faith
“Practicing Hope”
20th Sunday after Pentecost: October 11, 2026



The mission of the RC-UMC, as a community of faith, is to share the Gospel and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The mission of the AC-UMC: Do the best we can in the world we live in.

**This mark invites those who are able to please stand.*

RC: If you have a prayer concern or a joy to share, please write it down on the buff-colored paper found in the pew and place it in the offering place. Thank you.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, God’s never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

L: God’s always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

L: God’s persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God’s mercy and justice wherever we go.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

L: May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.
P: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

***HYMN: “There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy” 121**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see that which we have not dared to hope.

MOMENT FOR CENTERING AND PRESENCE

MINI-MESSAGE (for Children of All Ages)

OFFERING
***DOXOLOGY 95**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**
Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not only with our lips, but with our whole lives, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

1st READING: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (NRSV)

2nd READING: Psalm 23 (NRSV)

MESSAGE Pastor Mitch

***HYMN “Jesus Calls Us O’er The Tumult” 398**

JOYS AND CONCERNS
Pastoral Prayer
Lord’s Prayer

***HYMN: “Grace Alone” 2162**
The Faith We Sing - Black

***BENEDICTION**

Richland Center UMC:
Hymn Leaders: David Brock, Connie Frye,
Rosanne Knower, Kathy Schweinefus
Liturgist: Beth Huebner
Organist/Pianist: Jennifer Hall
Scripture Reader: Jim Brock
Sound System: Joan Wheeler
Coffee Hour Next Week: Mandy Miller & Barb Nimocks

Upcoming Worship Servers:
Oct. 18th Dianne Monson Dianne Monson
Oct. 25th Diane Cox Diane Cox
Nov. 1st Paul Murphey Paul Murphey
Nov. 8th Bonnie Richardson Bonnie Richardson

RC October Birthdays		AC October Birthdays	
Dianne Monson	10/12	Heidi Unbehaun	10/14
Jeannie Baker	10/13		
Howard Nelson	10/13		
Moorgan Worthington	10/13		
David Eder	10/14		
Austin Ewing	10/16		

AC October Anniversaries		RC October Anniversaries	
Chris & Shai Brown	10/14	Todd & Monica Eernisse	10/14
Bob & Cam Johnson	10/16	Dennis & Connie Tracy	10/14
Robert & Heidi Clary	10/17		

Prayer: Merciful God, keep us from rushing toward easy answers when waiting is hard. Calm our fears, quiet our impatience and turn our hearts away from false sources of comfort. Amen.

This Week's Events:

- 11 **Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. – AC**
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m. – RC
Sunday school: 10:30 a.m. – RC Sanctuary
Greg Zelek Organ Concert:
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
Performance at 2:00 p.m.
- 12 All Church Charge Conf. materials due in the office
13 Trustee Mtg: 1:00 p.m. – RC - Library
14 Dance Class: 4:30 p.m.
15 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – RC – Library
17 Davidson/Meisel Wedding: 1:00 p.m. - RC

Upcoming Events:

- 18 **Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. – AC**
Ad Council Mtg: 10:10 a.m. – AC
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m. – RC
Sunday school: 10:30 a.m. – RC
- 19 **PEO: 1:00 p.m. – RC - Library**
20 **Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. – RC – Library**
21 **Newsletter deadline: Noon**
Harvest Auction: In Fellowship Hall
Finger foods at 6:30 p.m.
Auction at 7:00 p.m.
- 22 **Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library**
24 **Church Charge Conference: RC Library**
Ash Creek at
Richland Center at



TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY
HOST

Many thanks to Diane Cox for hosting
coffee hour today.

**Ash Creek & Richland Center
United Methodist Churches**

Pastor: Mitch Richards
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-561-3050
Pastor's Email: mitchrichards64@gmail.com
Pastor in school Mondays
Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday
Pastor's Days off: Friday-Saturday

AC-UMC: 28820 Henry Clark Lane
RC-UMC: 400 E. Seminary St

AC-UMC Office: 608-647-3070
Secretary: Joan Wheeler
Treasurer: Kay Zieghan
Financial Secretary: Donna Sims
Custodian: Cindy Deckert

AC & RC-UMC Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday:
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
RC-UMC Office: 608-647-3203
RC-UMC Email: trinityumc@mwt.net
RC-UMC Website: www.rc.umc.org
Or: <https://rc-umc.org>

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler
Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse
Custodian: Desiree Beik



**Church Charge
Conference** will
October 24th.

Ash Creek at 10:00 a.m.
Richland Center at 11:00 a.m.
All are invited to attend the meetings.



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Christmas Child Shoeboxes



SUGGESTED GIFTS

Shoeboxes are in the east hallway on the pew. Our goal is 100 filled shoeboxes!

New items only, please.

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pad or paper, solar calculators, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair accessories, watches, small picture books, etc.

Nifty little items: A plastic zippered pencil case. Big enough to hold several pencils, pens, crayons, markers or small pads of paper. Small metal box for storing personal items or treasures

Do NOT include the following:

***War-related or scary items:** toy guns, knives,

***Soap is no longer allowed in shoebox gifts because of the complications it causes in customs in some nations.**

***Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.**

Last day to bring in shoeboxes will be October 31st.



Kwik Trip cards make great gifts. We have two varieties to choose from. One is grocery only; the other is a gift card good for gas and groceries. Both are worth \$25.00. Please see Nancy McCauley to purchase. This is a Mission's project.



Please make sure to give to the Food Pantry. They are in need of our non-perishable food donations. Please no outdated food items. Thank you.

ASD Memorial Tablecloth for Year 13!

Starting **Sunday, October 04, 2026**, our traditional memorial tablecloth will return in the narthex area in preparation for our 2026 All Saints' Day service.

Please add any names you wish to remember as personal saints you may have lost this year or from years past by using the fabric markers (permanent), or simply write the name on the slip of paper. Leave the paper on the table, and we will transfer the name for you. Your personal saints need not have been RC-UMC members.

Our Richland Center UMC 2026 saints will automatically be added.

This is now a church tradition, as the tablecloth will be used in a place of honor during our Sunday, November 01, 2026, service.

Deadline to add a name will be

Saturday, October 31, 2026.

Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair

Richland Center United Methodist Church
"HARVEST AUCTION"
Wednesday, October 21st



6:30 p.m. – Missions Committee is supplying snacks and beverages

7:00 p.m. – Auction
Kurt Monson, Auctioneer

RC-UMC's Schmitt Fellowship Hall
Proceeds to support of Jack Mujonga who works with Food Preservation in Senegal, Africa
Event sponsored by the RC-UMC Missions' Committee

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: THE ANNUAL HARVEST AUCTION

Summer is quickly moving along, and the trees are beginning to show the first hint of vibrant colors to come. That means it's time to mark your calendars and begin planning for the annual Harvest Auction. The Harvest Auction promotes a spirit of community while raising funds to support our covenant missionary, Jack Mujonga who serves in Senegal, Africa. Jack's mission is Food Security in Senegal.

This year's auction will be held on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st, in the church Fellowship Hall. Gather at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and beverages provided by the Missions Committee, then socialize with friends while looking over auction items and planning your bidding strategy. Auctioneer Kurt Monson will begin the auction promptly at 7:00 p.m. You can look forward to lots of laughs and good-natured bidding as Kurt moves things along at a lively pace.

If you're unable to attend the auction, we hope you'll support the auction by donating an item or items and/or by supporting this mission financially. Your prayers for the ministry of Jack Mujonga is greatly appreciated.

HARVEST AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

The Missions' Committee is busy planning the annual Harvest Auction to be held in our Schmitt Hall on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st**. A successful auction depends upon having a variety of interesting and appealing items to present for bidding, and we need your help!

In the past, popular auction items have included garden/orchard produce; food items—fresh, canned, or frozen; specialty baskets; hand crafted items; quilted or crocheted items; seasonal décor; plants and herbs; puzzles; tools; hobby items; toys, and much more. **Blank auction certificates** for donated goods or services to be delivered in the future to the buyer are posted on the Missions bulletin board and will also be available the evening of the auction. Some examples: a load of chopped wood, a specialty cake or pie—use your imagination and be creative!

Please bring your **nonperishable Harvest Auction donations to the room across from the choir room downstairs. Please identify Harvest Auction donations as such, as other things may be stored in the room.** Nonperishable items should be at the church by the afternoon of October 21st if possible; perishables may be brought the evening of the auction.

We request that donated items be clean and either NEW or VERY GENTLY USED. Any items not sold at the auction may be donated to the Family Thrift Shop. **PLEASE—NO LARGE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, OUTDATED COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE, OR CLOTHING.**

If you're unable to participate in the Harvest Auction, please prayerfully consider a monetary donation to our covenant missionary, **Jack Mujonga from Senegal, Africa is the recipient of our auction funds. His mission is food security.**

